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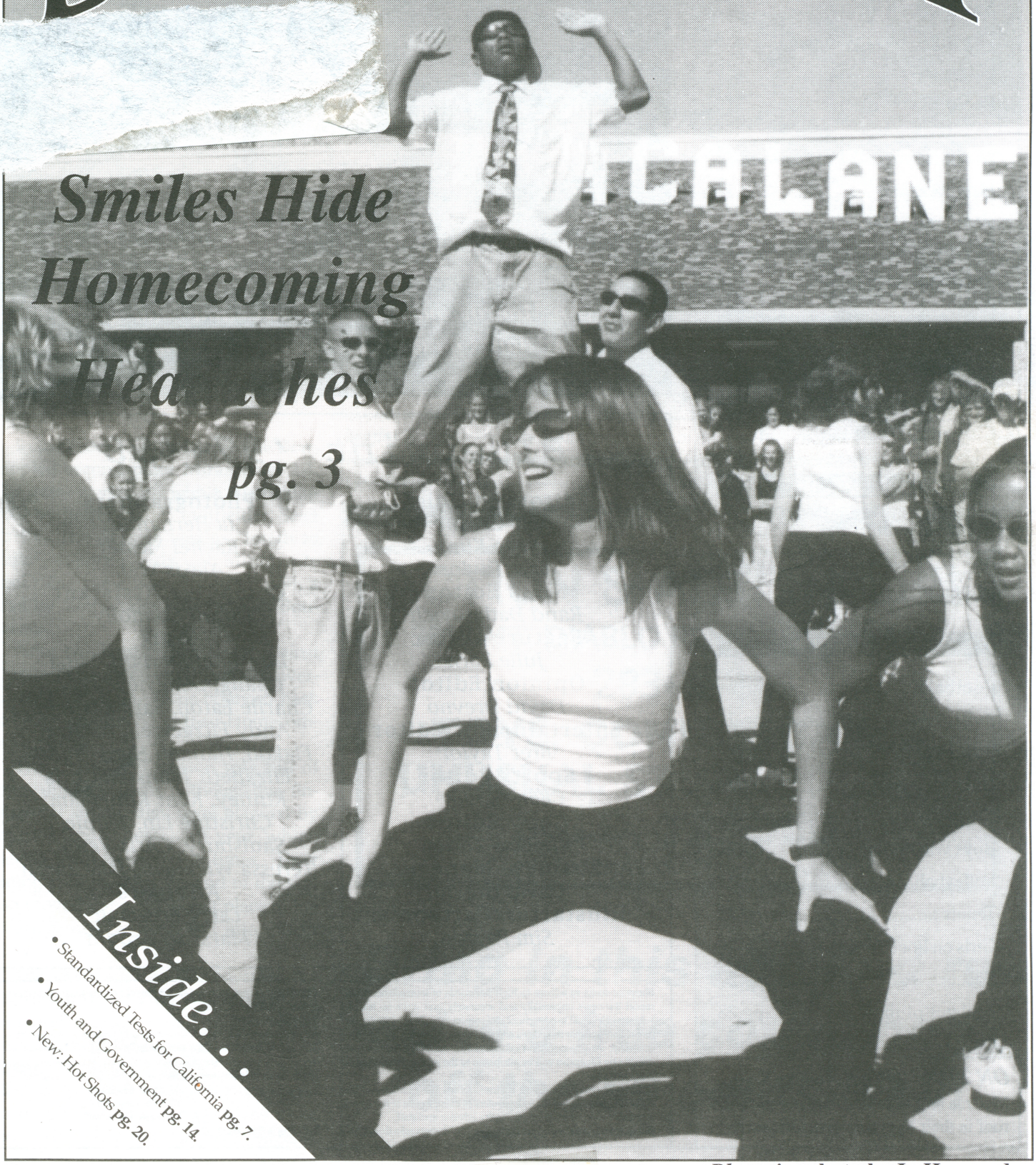
October 31, 1997 ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL Volume 58, Number 2

BLUEPRINT



Smiles Hide Homecoming Hea[illegible]nes

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***Blueprint* photo by Ia Hernandez**

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ON THE COVER: Juniors Kenji McCrae and Monica Donovan raise the roof in their lipsyncing performance.

Photo of the Issue

Marylin Monroe soaks up some rays and "star-gazes" in the Acalanes quad on the first day of homecoming.

Blueprint '97-'98

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Blueprint is published approximately every three weeks during the school year except for holidays and breaks by the Journalism class at Acalanes High School.

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A CALANES BLUEPRINT
NEWS

INSIDE . . . . . .

Homecoming at a Glance pg. 10

HOMECOMING

Eggs Crack Future Chance of Float-building

by Jennie Saulsbury
Staff Writer

The theme for this year's homecoming was Hollywood, the place where dreams come true and the magic of movies is made. However, for many Acalanes students, this one didn't have a very happy ending.

Pratical jokes and pranks that escalated during Homecoming week may be enough to have future float-building moved back on campus, making some students angry and others relieved, according to Principal Keith Schmidt.

The pranks, which ranged from the changing of the cardboard Acalanes sign to spell out the word "penis" on the school roof to egging and paintballing of freshmen during float building Wednesday, Oct. 15 and Thursday, Oct. 16 made some students and administrators decide that class rivalry had gone too far.

"It's just not fair to do things like this to other people," said senior Ali Faard, "the freshmen had just as much right as anybody else to participate in Homecoming, so how come they got attacked?"

"The things that were done were both damaging and dangerous, not to mention unfair," said Schmidt.

The attacking of the freshmen float-builders occured at the Baywood home of freshman Nicole Tomei and involved the throwing of dozens of eggs and the shooting of paintballs at the float and the float-builders. "We managed to wash the paint off, but some of the egg stuck to the pavement and wouldn't come off," said Tomei.

It was also rumored that some firecrackers were used, as well as potato guns, though Tomei didn't notice any. "There might have been one firecracker, but I'm not sure," she said.

According to one student who accompanied some of the perpetrators during the attacks and wishes to remain anonymous, "paintball guns started to go off and we could hear people throwing eggs and everyone was scattering, so we ran back up the hill and waited for it to calm down."

The student returned on Thursday night to find that the situation had escalated even more. "It seemed people had a more destructive intent... a few people wanted to mess stuff up and that sort of spread until everything escalated. I knew everybody was going to go up and get rowdy, but I didn't expect they would try to destroy stuff," he said.

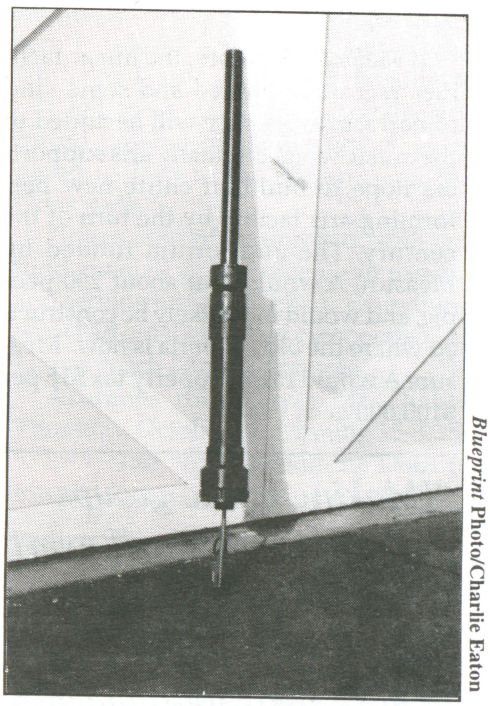
The situation got so rowdy, in fact, that parents called the police . "There were cop cars and a police helicopter everywhere. It was out of control," said the student.

None of the students involved have been caught by the school or the police yet, do to lack of hard evidence. "There are a lot of rumors and a lot of suggested names but I don't think we've reached the point where we would feel comfortable doing anything yet. It is all very circumstantual," said Schmidt.

However, if the students involved are found, Schmidt intends to punish them as if the incident had happened on campus. "I would use the same discipline as if the incident had happened here. If somebody came on campus and shot paintballs or threw eggs, we would give them something to think about.. namely suspension," he said.

Schmidt let his unhappiness concerning the incident known to the school in a school wide P.A. announcement the following Friday. He stated that "a steady increase in unacceptable behavior culminated...last night in several actions that endangered people's safety and damaged the community's opinion of the school." As a result of these actions the "long standing tradition of off-campus float-building may have ended."

"I think the challenge to the student body government will be to decide what to do about floats. I think we've tried it every way we can try it and it doesn't seem to work. If you keep trying variations on a theme and it doesn't work, than it's the wrong theme. I don't see how I can support any concept of doing float-building off-campus," he said.



Blueprint Photo/Charlie Eaton

A spud gun was one of several weapons allegedly used on Thursday, Oct. 16.

Junior Linsay Lieberman approved of the decision to end off-campus float-building. "It'll deter people from throwing things at the floats. It probably will still happen, but not as often and not as severe," she said.

Schmidt also felt that on-campus float-building might not completely end the problem. "If it still continues, than we might not have float-building at all," he said.

Other students, however, felt that the decision was unfair. "How come a few immature pranksters get to ruin future home-

continued on page 8

NEW AUDITORIUM

New Auditorium Plan in the Works

Measure A Funds May Help Finance Auditorium Project

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
Staff Writer

A plan to construct a new auditorium for Acalanes will gain momentum if Measure A, a $48 million funding project to renovate the Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas, and Miramonte campuses, passes on Nov. 4.

If Measure A passes, the music facilities will be improved and some kind of performance space will be added to the music wing. But many arts supporters hope to build an entire new performing arts facility by the turn of the century. The auditorium funded by Measure A would seat about 250 people, and would most likely be constructed where the old cafeteria is now. Measure A would raise property tax $18 per $100,000 each year.

"[Making music groups perform in the small gym] is like telling the basketball players that they have to have their tournaments on the outside basketball courts."

-Juliana Athayde

Acalanes instrumental music teacher Rick Meyer is very supportive of the plan to have a better facility for concerts, and said that the current facility he uses "has to be improved." He said that such a new facility is "incredibly important." At present, the instrumental music groups as well as the choruses do not have a place on campus to perform other than the small gym, often criticized for uncomfortable seating and poor acoustics. Meyer has been looking around at the auditoriums of other schools recently to gain ideas about the construction of a facility for Acalanes.

The award winning choral and instrumental music programs at Acalanes are widely recognized as exceeding high school standards. Groups like the ones at this school deserve an improved performance area, said Meyer. "It's almost silly to do the kind of work we're doing and not be able to share the end result."

The bands and orchestra earn superior evaluations at most all of the CMEA competitions. The orchestra placed first in the West Coast competition in Oregon, and the A'capella choir has performed in Carnegie Hall.

Norma Evans, who is one of the three chairs for the Lafayette segment of Measure A, explained that Measure A would put eight new classrooms and 11 classroom renovations ahead of a new auditorium due to Acalanes' rapidly growing enrollment.

Measure A is approximately a 12.2 million dollar plan for Acalanes, and that may not be enough to cover a whole new auditorium, said Evans. Grants may be written along with funds gained to increase the amount of money that can be used.

There is no set construction plan yet, but Evans said that Acalanes may try to buy the blueprints from another school's theater. Many students' parents feel strongly about the need for an arts facility because the instrumental and choral music groups would use it as well as the Stanley groups and the drama students. Evans said that it is "time for the arts to get their share."

Many of the students from the music program at Acalanes agree with Meyer in his desire for a new facility. Senior Juliana Athayde, a member of the symphonic band, orchestra, and jazz band, feels that the district should make the plan for a new auditorium one of its first priorities. Athayde has been in the music program since she was a freshman, and every year, the music groups are forced to perform in the small gym. It's "like telling the basketball players they have to have their tournaments on outside basketball courts."

The entire school has been remodeled except for the music facilities, said Athayde, because previous bond measures for improving the school have made music a last priority.

Sophomore Renee Harris, a member of symphonic band, feels that a new facility is necessary as well, and she said the thought of possibly having a real place to play by the time she is a senior is exciting. She feels that "music and art are really important, not just academics."

Some students who are not part of the music program at Acalanes feel that perhaps the money that may go to building a new auditorium could be used for something that would benefit the entire school and not just the music department. Sophomore Valerie Rudiak said that the school could spend its money on things that are more helpful for everyone instead of "just a specific group of people."

WHAT IS MEASURE A?

Measure A--a $48 million bond measure for the Acalanes Union High School District--will be distributed among the facilities of the schools if it passes on Nov. 4.

Due to increasing enrollment in each school, new classroom constructions are a first priority. There will be 11 new classrooms at Acalanes, and 8 classroom renovations. A total of $27 million is being used for classroom and building needs at Acalanes.

$15.9 million will be used by the district for P.E. and community use facilities, such as possible gym, library, and auditorium renovations. The swimming pools and fields may be renovated as well.

$5.1 million will go to health, safety, and general conditions of the schools. These improvements include new parking areas, renovation of the bleachers, air conditioning in more rooms, and new bathrooms.

The cost of measure A to homeowners will be $18 per $100,000 assessed value of property each year.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

VHS Cruises Information Superhighway

By Julie Zorn
Feature Editor

Acalanes students are setting a national trend for the technological wave to the future through a new teaching medium known as Virtual High School.

This past week Cheryll Davis, VHS site coordinator for Miramonte, traveled to a New York PBS studio to do a show on Virtual High School called *Technology and Innovation*, and interviewed Miramonte students and their South Carolina teacher. Another show about VHS called *C/Net* will air on December 14 on CBS.

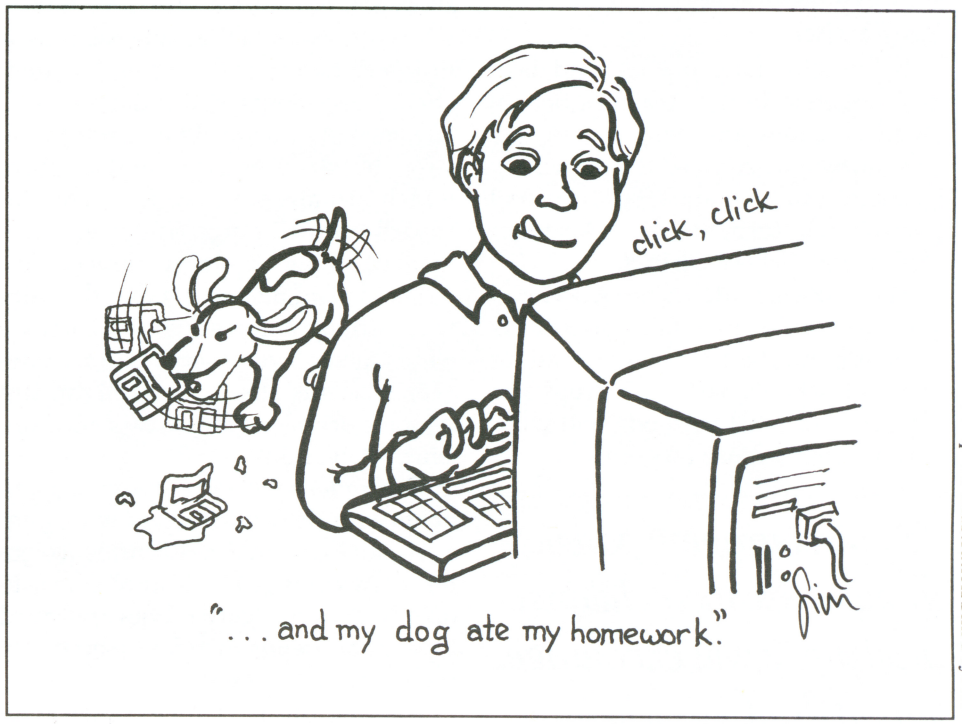
VHS has sparked an interest in both students and adults toward technological education. Bevan Vinton, Virtual High School and World History teacher at Campolindo, describes VHS as "exhausting but exhilerating".

In this first year of the program, 27 schools, including Acalanes, are participating in 27 different internet-based courses.

The courses offered through Virtual High School (VHS) are called netcourses. The netcourses being offered range from AP Statistics to Bioethics Symposium to Writing through Hypertext.

French teacher, Stan Oberg, is offering a course called La Connection Francophone. "They have to go to the French language websites and find the information out. My class is a virtual tour of the French speaking world," said Oberg. Although he is disappointed with only four students in his class, he says "it still takes a tremendous amount of time."

Vinton has added a new innovative class to the VHS curriculum called Eastern and Western Thought: A Comparison. She currently has 15 students in her class where they read about different philosophers through the internet, conduct interviews, write papers, and have class discussions. "The teacher student relationship is intense ...students who would normally be shy in the classroom are not shy in VHS," said Vinton.



Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

Miramonte and Los Lomas also are active in the VHS program. Terry Haugan from Miramonte is teaching Russian Studies on VHS. At Los Lomas, Ami Zensus and Matt Huston are jointly teaching Writing Through Hypertext.

During the spring and summer months the VHS teachers underwent a class of their own. The teachers took a "course on how to teach an on-line course," said Davis.

Over 520 students are involved in the first year of Virtual High School. "The whole idea of it being on the Internet makes it more exciting...it takes you away from the teedium of regular classes," said Lauren Keyes who is taking an AP English course on the Internet.

"The program was started by Hudson High School in Massachusetts and the Concord Consortium in Massachusetts," said Davis. They wrote a $7.4 million grant for a five year experiment.

The Lotus Corporation created the software necessary for the netcourses called Lotus Notes. However, VHS "had a bit of a rocky start because the server that is used to house the courses couldn't take the 520 hits it was getting from all the students. When they changed to a bigger server things smoothed out," said Davis.

Lotus and the Concord Consortium sponsored an all expensed paid trip to Boston for Virtual High School teachers. Teachers spent three days, Sept. 27-29, sorting through problems in the program, taking a boat trip on the Charles River, and experiencing the luxury of a New England dinner. "We all got to meet other teachers that we had only met over the internet," said Davis.

Vice President Al Gore and Massachusetts Senator John Carrey were scheduled to attend the meeting, but neither were able to make it. Many political figures are interested in "seeing a role of technology in education," said Vinton.

ANTI-DRUG COALITION

Zero Tolerance Urged by Community

By Sara Eckholm
Staff Writer

In hopes of tackling drug and alcohol problems in the Acalanes School District, a new anti-drug and alcohol committee, whose members include teachers, administrators, students and parents, has formed in the Acalanes Union High School District.

The Acalanes Attendance Area Drug and Alcohol Coalition takes on the task of determining what problems junior and high schools have with drugs and alcohol, and what methods will work best to combat those problems.

"By discouraging parents to supervise their children drinking, it will encourage kids to drink elsewhere."
-Amy Judy

The 40 members will work in five sub-committees to examine certain problems, and then offer solutions. Former Acalanes peer support teacher Ellen Peterson hopes to "see if we can come up with some new ideas to reduce substance abuse at schools...and also to help kids who are involved with drugs or alcohol."

What is unique about this coalition is its variety of members. Parent Jodi Riley hopes that by bringing together different representatives and their opinions, the group will be able to affect many Acalanes district students. Miramonte student Patrick Sargent is on the committee because he has seen what drugs have done to his friends, and would like to see high school drug use minimized.

Many different opinions were voiced at the meeting on Oct. 27. There were ideas that ranged from sign-out sheets at school dances, to surveying Acalanes district parents about their own drug use. However, the parents, teachers, students, administrators, and nurses who gathered had the same basic goals in mind: to reduce drug and alcohol abuse by students in our district.

The coalition would attempt to ensure the strict enforcement of rules which are already in effect. This includes encouraging stricter enforcement of student-athlete contracts.

Senior Tim Bishop felt that the rules were strictly enforced on his Lacrosse team when players were caught. However, students aren't often caught, and on some occasions they escape the punishment, he said.

Other plans include encouraging students who are serving five-day suspensions, for being under the influence going to or coming to a school event, to take an option to get a school approved type of counseling in order to serve only three-day suspensions.

Another future change could be increased campus security. Principal Keith Schmidt said that this was a possibility in the future, but not likely right now. The group as a whole is still trying to decide what issues to tackle.

Several subcommittees will focus on the issues of better parent and community communications, developing a drug use survey, improving/implementing a student curriculum, examining teachers' roles in drug and alcohol prevention and intervention, and also looking at how to better enforce school policies already in place.

In the March 1992 issue of *Blueprint*, 40% of 698 students interviewed said that they drink at least once a month and that their parents allow them to drink. A communications parents network subcommittee will work on having more open lines of communication between parents and administrators, and from parents to other parents. The group feels that by keeping parents informed, and aware of what is going on in the schools, they will be better able to both prevent and intervene in high school drug and alcohol abuse.

Junior Amy Judy doesn't think that opening parents eyes would have the desired effect. She said that "by discouraging parents to supervise their children drinking, it will encourage kids to drink elsewhere." She felt that it would be safer to drink in a house than to be out someplace, and have to drive home.

Peterson and Riley agreed that many parents see high school drinking as a harmless rite of passage. They either don't take drinking or drug abuse seriously, or they choose to look the other way.

"I really think that parental denial has led to what has become kind of extensively (marijuana and alcohol particularly) normal," said Riley. Sargent agreed that "parents really haven't got a clue, they don't know why kids use."

The survey committee will work towards compiling new statistics which would show exactly what problems schools in the Acalanes district have, making solutions easier to target. Peterson said that the sixth through twelfth grade students would complete "a drug use survey that is scientifically designed for accuracy because we know some students exaggerate when they do a survey, and we know other students under-report." For many years, she believes, schools didn't want surveys because they thought it would make them look bad.

A goal of the student education committee would be to extend the drug education program into high school. In May 1997, *Blueprint* asked 35 students what they thought about their drug education. Twenty-two of them categorized it as "a waste of time."

Peterson feels that an approach that centered on ex-abusers sharing their experiences may have a greater impact than simply more lectures or classes. Whether or not it has a great influence on students, she said, "I think it's one piece in a very large puzzle."

Schmidt wants the school to continue to have "inspirational" speakers who would be able to relate their real world experiences to students. Many times, he said, this results in an increase of students seeking help from counselors, or other students.

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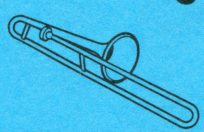

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STANDARDIZED TESTING

Statewide Standardized Test in 1998

By Vanessa Totten
Copy Editor

Governor Wilson signed a bill on Oct. 7 requiring all students in California public schools to take a standardized test based on statewide standards being developed by the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards, which will go into effect in 1998.

This test will cover reading, writing and mathematics for all ages. In grades nine through eleven, the test will also cover science and history/social science.

The bill, written by Senator Dede Alpert (D-Coronado), makes allowances for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students. LEP students will be allowed to take the test in English and then take a second test in their first language if it is their first year in the California public school system.

One of the reasons many groups, including the Department of Education, called for standardized testing is because currently there is no real way to compare how students are doing between districts.

There are some standardized tests offered by the State of California, such as the Golden State Exams, yet none are mandatory, and each tests different content in each district, making comparison impossible. Some districts do not require their students to take any of the tests, making comparisons even more difficult.

The standardized testing bill, called the Statewide Testing and Reporting Program (STAR), has been in the works for over seven years. Governor Wilson initially called for some type of standardized testing in his 1990 bid for governor. According to a press realese, Governor Wilson said on the day he signed the bill, "This test had been a very personal, very high priority of mine. It is, arguably, the most important education reform we will make this year."

The results of the individual tests will only be available to parents, teachers and principals. Overall data, broken down by grade, school, district and county will be available for the public.

Many students want to know how they match up, but some don't want to know where they are in comparison to their classmates. Junior Lauren Hart said "(STAR) could be bad since our school doesn't rank ... It would be like bringing back the ranking system."

Many teachers are concerned that the test is just another way for Governor Wilson to show the voters how concerend he is with education, without spending much money. Marie Zorn, a teacher at Antioch High School said they should "take the 34 million (that the STAR program will cost) and dump it into the classroom." The government should "put the funds into remediate" students, not to just make everyone aware there is a problem, she said. Zorn called the bill a scam and a political action. "If (the state government) really cared, (the California public schools) wouldn't have the lowest funding."

The state estimates the cost at eight dollars per student, which is approximatly $35.4 million statewide. The tests will be administered no later than May 25, and data reports should be available by June 30 of the same year. The data would be posted on the Internet for public access.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Lost in (Cyber) Space

By Charlie Eaton
Staff Writer

With the networking power of the Internet and lightening- quick computer technology at Acalanes, the Virtual High School program opens up the universe of cyberspace to students.

However, the gravity of technological glitches has pulled the program back into the terra firma of reality.

VHS offers students an opportunity to take courses otherwise unavailable at Acalanes, but the program's Concord, MA-based server proved itself as reliable as the trusty Fiat and prevented VHS students from efficiently communicating with teachers for four weeks this year.

Junior Nick Lapating signed up for the VHS Program to expand his horizons with a class in Folklore and Literature of Myth Magic and Religion via the Internet, but unfortunately, the sun has set on his expectations.

Lapating was greeted by a slow server on his first day of school in cyberspace making the experience frustrating. The next day Lapating was cut off from the server and remained unable to contact his teacher for the next two weeks. "It got me off to a bad start... and put me into a bad routine on the program," said Lapating.

The technical problems soured Lapating so much that he has dropped the class leaving only three of the original 15 students enrolled in the program. "With computers there's just too many problems, especially with the Internet," said Lapating.

Virtual High School students can now contact their teachers. "I feel really certain, with the improvements that have been made, the spring quarter will go very smoothly," said Bernard. However, Lapating alleged that even when he stopped attending the class two weeks ago, if he remained logged onto the server for too long, it cut him off.

Nevertheless, Lapating and Bernard agree that if VHS's Internet server maintains reliability the program will be extremely valuable.

DRIVING LAW

Driving Law Evokes Mixed Reactions

By Julie Zorn
Feature Editor

Commotion caused by the effects of the driving bill passed earlier this month has triggered mixed student and parent reaction.

The new bill will affect teenagers who get their license after July of 1998 which comes as a great relief to some. "I am just glad that I made the cut-off," said sophomore Laura Cooper.

The restrictions that the bill requires will involve parents to be more active in the driving process of students, it will restrict the times that students can go out, and it will prohibit students ability to drive with their friends. "The bill does cause an inconvenience, but it will be worth it," said Acalanes parent, Leslie Ward.

Although her son, freshmen Josh Ward, does not think the bill is that bad, he adds that "if I am out with my friends and somebody needs a ride, I have to leave them there," which he feels hesitant about doing.

The only incentive offered to teens to follow the bill is that they will be reducing teenage accidents and saving lives. "The driving bill will teach safety; it will give young drivers more 'learning time' on the road," said an Acalanes parent who wished to remain anonymous.

Some have a different view of the law. The opinion that more accidents will be caused exists amoung students. "There will be more drunk drivers on the road because there won't be a designated driver," said freshman Laura Fischer.

In contrast to her daughters opinion Sally Fischer is in favor of the bill. "Living in California, there are just too many cars on the road and there is not enough margin for error."

Enforcement of the bill is not a primary concern for police either. Police can only give a ticket to a teenage driver, if they have already broken an existing traffic law. It will not be effective because police can not properly enforce the law, said track and cross country coach, Darrin Neutz.

"There will probably be people who will break the law. They are going to drive with their friends no matter what, some already drive by themselves or with friends while they have their permit," said Josh Ward.

Supporters of the bill hope that parents will be a significant aid in enforcement. If students tell their parents they are going out with their friends late at night and say 'other parents are letting their kids do it,' the adults can say 'well no they're not because it is against the law,' said AAA representative Paula Labrie.

There is a possibility that the bill will create lower insurance rates, but the rates will not be affected for at least a year and a half after the bill goes into effect. "Insurance companies would have to wait until the California Highway Patrol (CHP) released their annual report before rates could be taken into consideration," said Labrie.

Insurance rates would drop if accidents were reduced. "This should be incentive for teenagers to watch the effects of the bill and hold the legislature accountable...If accidents do not drop then they're not implementing it or this really wasn't the problem, which could cause the bill to be repealed," said Assemblywoman Lynne Leach.

Leach believes that the bill is "penalizing all drivers" rather then those who do break the law.

Although some do see the bill as a punishment, "We don't want to punish anyone, it is to give the teenage driver baby steps," said Chris Mowrer, Senior Consultant for bill author Senator Tim Lesley.

HOMECOMING (cont'd)

cont'd from page 3

coming for the rest of us? It's not fair to punish everyone because of what some students did this year," said junior Chris Blazick.

Lieberman, however, felt that the incident would reoccur if float building remained off campus. "It'll happen every single year no matter what anybody says or does. We can't stop it, but we can make it less endangering by moving it back to school," she said.

Schmidt agreed that it might not be fair to punish the whole school for the actions of a few students, but felt no way around it. "My responsibility is to make sure everything we do has an eye towards safety. I know it punishes a lot of students who were doing exactly what they were supposed to be doing but the bottom line is I can't have the school sponsoring things that I know are going to go wrong," he said

The student partially involved in the pranks didn't believe they had originally been intended to hurt anybody. "I personally wouldn't have brought paintball guns because when the CO2 gets hot, it shoots harder and I've had my skin broken open.... but eggs on the other hand I don't think they can do too much," he said.

Lieberman, however, did not feel they were the kind of games homecoming was supposed to be about. "I think the student government had a very good idea this year trying to unify the students by decorating the school, but the students had a different idea of fun that I don't think ended up being fun for everyone," she said.

So, as another homecoming week rides off into the sunset, there is some doubt as to whether or not the sequel will be as good. "Homecoming won't be the same with float building on campus," says junior Crissy Chandler. "It's not as fun."

NUGGETS

NEWSBRIEF

Cancer Awareness

By Anne Kim
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Radiation therapy, surgery, and mammograms. All have been weapons to fight breast cancer, but Hassadeh Valley Center and the John Muir Breast Cancer Center have given Acalanes junior and senior girls a new weapon: education.

In the "Check it Out" assembly on Oct. 21, breast cancer survivor Janyce Hoyt stressed the importance of how to look out for breast cancer now, to avoid being "a statistic later on," she said.

The statistics are frightening. Teenagers have minimal risk of contracting breast cancer, but "one in eight" women over the age of sixty "will be diagnosed with breast cancer," said Brenda Carlson, a registered nurse at the John Muir Breast Cancer Center. Because breast cancer is "highly curable at an early stage," she said, the focus is on "early detection."

The girls learned how to perform Breast Self Exams and models were passed around to show how difficult it is to detect cancerous lumps.

Thanks to grants from John Muir Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente, "Check it Out" is able to travel to schools all over the area, said Helene Weber, Health Education Chairman of Hassadeh.

Blueprint would like to apologize for the following errors in the Oct. 10, 1997 issue:

- The photos of the rally on page 5, Mark Verlatti on page 22, and Eric Andersen on page 28 were taken by Ia Hernandez.
- On page 13, the Acalanes Varsity runner is Melissa Powers, not Katie Powers.
- On page 13, "Edward Chandler" should be "Ed Chandler."

PHOTOBRIEF

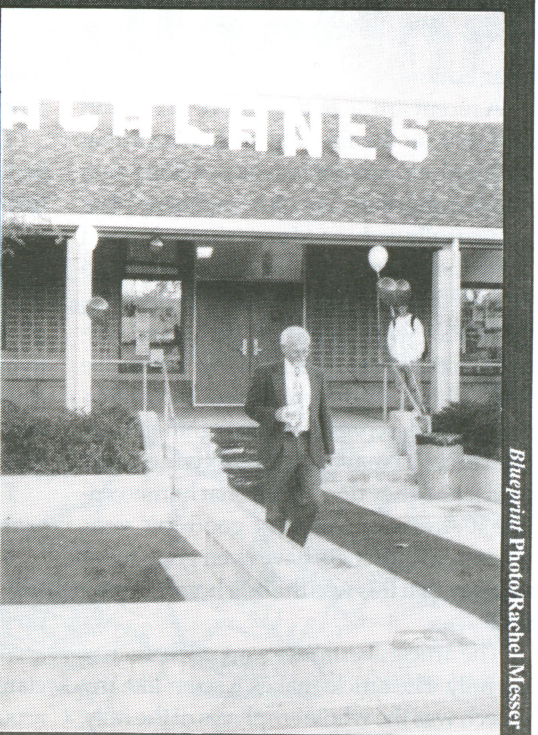
Acalanes principal Keith Schmidt was awarded the Administrator of the Year Award for 1997.

Schmidt was nominated for the award by other administrators in this district, and the plaque he was awarded now sits in his office.

Schmidt felt that school year "got off to a nice, smooth, positive start", and also commented that "homecoming was nicely done," despite the float-building glitches. Schmidt was also proud to announce that he has just completed the application for a Blue Ribbon School for Acalanes, although the results will not be known for a while.

Schmidt appreciates the recognition he has received, and feels a definite pride in being the principal of Acalanes.

-By Hannah Hens-Piazza



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

NEWSBRIEF

Student Senate at AHS

By Elizabeth Johnson
Staff Writer

ASB officers and school officials are contemplating the creation of a Student Senate, a communications link between the student body government and the student body.

"As of right now, the average student . . . has no idea what is going on, has no input, can't give us input unless they come to leadership class, and a lot of kids might feel intimidated to talk to leadership during leadership class," said ASB president Meredith Galer. Students would discuss their ideas in second period classes, these ideas would be brought to Leadership's attention by the class's Student Senate representative.

The Senate representatives would meet once a month on a Wednesday before school. Besides offering feedback on ASB decisions and activities, the Student Senate Representatives would vote on ASB financial appropriations of over $300 said principal Keith Schmidt.

However, besides voting on finances and opening the communcation link between the student body and Leadership, the Student Senate would have no other real powers. "The Student Senate is not really dealing with issues. . . it's more a publicity thing so we can get what (Leadership is) doing out there" said Galer.

The Student Senate would be implemented "at the latest by second semester, or ideally before winter break," said principal Keith Schmidt.

PHOTO FOCUS

Acalanes Homecoming at a Glance

Dear Editors,

A recent article in the Contra Costa Sun said that on the first day of homecoming walking onto campus was like walking onto campus any other day. Our leadership class got up really early on Monday morning and got to the Lucky's parking lot by six a.m. to pick up three hundred balloons to decorate the school with, as well as cardboard cut-outs, palm trees and the Acalanes letters. We went all out, 110% and I think the leadership class deserves more recognition than the article gave us. Community members read it and they don't think that homecoming at Acalanes was very good this year, when some teachers have even gone so far as to say that this was the best homecoming ever.

The article also talks about my speech at the rally. The article makes it seem like my speech was the whole emphasis of the rally. That's not true. The whole emphasis of the rally was to get school spirit, and I think we did that with the spirit patrol and cheerleaders teaching a cheer. My speech was not "solemn" or "stern" as article described it My speech, I think, wasn't uplifting, but I wasn't yelling at anyone, I was just saying it wasn't cool to egg. I was trying to get them in the mood for a good homecoming.

The article said that the kick-off rally was just sports teams showing off. No sports teams were involved; it was all cheerleaders and leadership students.

People in the community have come up to me and said "wow, homecoming didn't go so well this year." Rumors have started flying from this article. This hurts me because the leadership class has worked so hard and I think homecoming went really well. The communitity should know that.

I would like to clarify a few things reported in the article.

There was egging and paintballing, and one M80 blew up on a table, but there were no flaming potatoes.

Secondly, the article said "Schmidt declared that the "dangerous and immature" acts of a few Acalanes students effectivly put an end to off-campus float building for good." Mr. Schmidt has not decided on float building next year. He has not made any decisions whatsoever.

Sincerely,
Meredith Galer
ASB President

Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

***Above**: Seniors Megan Shuck and Rob Sayegh dance in their winning lip sync performance. **Below**: The wild west sophomore float is proudly displayed in the Homecoming Parade down Mt. Diablo Blvd.*

Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

Seniors Allison Lewis and Hillary Thum enjoy Tom Cruise's company, much to the dismay of the many available senior guys needing dates to the Homecoming Dance. The guys got their revenge , however, with Tom's neighbor Marilyn Monroe.

Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

A CALANES BLUEPRINT
FEATURE

INSIDE . . . . . .

Acalanes School Climate pg. 12

NEW TEACHERS

New Teachers Add Spice To Acalanes

By Andria Flakoll and Christine Lin
Staff Writers

Sherry Disher

As a student, learning was not on the list of priorities for Sherry Disher, but when she joined the staff of AHS teachers this fall she strives to motivate her students to fulfill what she fell short of.

"I was a very conscious student and I got great grades but I tended not to learn. (I worked) more for the grades, which I really regret now. I wish I had been a maybe even a B student and really gotten into whatever the teacher was trying to teach," Disher said in retrospect.

Growing up in southern Oregon, she attended Medford High School, home of the black tornado, in a class with six hundred other students. She spent her free time participating on the rally board, snow skiing, and reading which as an English teacher she still continues to enjoy. "I used to sit out in the sun and bake for hours at a time and get this great tan and read book after book."

At Oregon State, she was a Pharmacy major but soon lost interest in the idea of bottling pills for a living. She realized that Chemistry was no longer fun without her prince charming lab partner. She transferred to Oregon State after she developed a real passion for literature. "I had an English teacher who really encouraged me to take more English classes, so, by the time I was a senior, he had convinced me I should try student teaching, and I really liked it," said Disher. Now Disher likes to think that her teaching opens shades to windows that students didn't know were there.

Disher has previously taught at three schools in Illinois. So, with a variety of other teaching experiences under her belt, Disher moved here and chose to come to Acalanes first as a substitute teacher and last year as the photography teacher. In comparison to her other teaching experiences Disher said, "Acalanes has a much higher caliber of both of teacher and student... and the inspiration you get from other teachers is terrific."

Disher strives to make her class fun. Sophomore Lauren Mackenzie said, "She is seriously the best English teacher I have ever had. Class is fun because she's not happy if it isn't."

Julie Haire

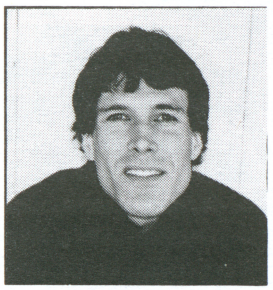
Haire's choice of profession comes as no suprise to her relatives, for she comes from a family of teachers. Teaching literally puts Haire in an entirely new field of work, away from agricultural Central Valley. She has worked odd jobs such as being a weigh master at a onion packaging shed, a packager at the meat department of a grocery store, a waitress in a restaurant, an insurance office personnel, and a law clerk. Although these jobs were only part-time or summer jobs, Haire believes the jobs made her a more well rounded person.

Haire taught at Hills Dale High School in San Mateo and at Irvington High School in Fremont. At Acalanes she teaches English II and English III. Because Haire went to school in Berkeley she said it was pretty much known that Lafayette was a good area to teach in. "I heard that the community is really supportive of education...I just wanted to work where students are motivated," said Haire.

In high school, Haire admits that she "didn't have the best study skills. I'm not a great note taker and I do procrastinate a lot." Trying to take advantage of the social atmosphere while schooling at Berkeley, Haire spent much time partying with her sorority, yet still managed to find time to read the numerous novels and write the large amount of papers needed to complete her English major.

Haire has tried to create her classroom environment to be more like that of a college, including seminars where the students speak their minds on the books they are reading, rather then studying only the vocabulary and writing. "Her approach to some of her lesson plans are really creative. They let us interact," said sophomore Hilary Meu. Sophomore Chiara Wellmen agrees. "She has good ways of making everybody participate in class...She has good discussions in class,"she said.

Haire's worst teaching nightmare would have to be "being observed and having my whole class overthrow me and walk out."



Andrew Thompson

In the past he could be seen jamming with Poison Ivy, a local San Francisco rock and roll band, or biking through almost every country around the world, but Andrew Thompson never would have expected to follow in his father's footsteps and teach English.

In the old leadership classroom sits Thompson, one of Acalanes' new teachers on the block. He covered the walls of his normally dingy establishment with colorful visuals of alternative bands like Oasis,

Continued on page 14

FEATURE FOCUS

Students, Faculty Ponder Moral Decline

More Students are Overstepping the Boundaries of Authority

By Rand Dadasovich and Jennie Saulsbury
News Editor and Staff Writer

Beavis and Butthead, MTV, The Simpsons, Madonna *on Letterman*--all so-called symbols of Generation Y. According to some, their influence over the behavior of today's teens has led school climate, at Acalanes and elsewhere, to a new low.

An increase in class disruptions and the disrepect shown to teachers over the past two decades has become a common trend at many schools, raising the eyebrows of worried educators, while most students don't seem to bat an eye.

History teacher Dr. Janene Scovel believes that the behavior of some teenagers has deteriorated in the last two decades. "There have been some kids who I would ask to pick something up, and they would say 'Make me.' They had no respect, and what could I do?" she said.

These examples of disrespect reach beyond Acalanes. Adam Admark, a senior at Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco, said that private schools like his have similar problems. "Because (my school) is all male, students lose some of their respect and become more aggressive. Sometimes they whistle at female teachers when they get up on stage to give a speech," he said.

Both administrators and students believe the changing attitudes of teenagers today reflect the changes in what society considers acceptable. "It goes back to the sixites and the whole 'Challenge Authority Mindset.' In the fifties, people were much more trusting of authority. Today, you get some kids who challenge too much. They forget freedom is based in mutual respect," Principal Keith Schmidt said.

Senior Joyce Lin also believes that the loosened standards since the sixties have influenced the behavior of today's teenagers. "I've grown up in a time where I have been taught that (things like corporal punishment) are bad. There is such an emphasis on personal freedom and individual rights (today), that some kids are going to abuse this freedom," she said.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joanne Haukland believes that this emphasis on personal freedom is making it hard for some students to differentiate between friends and authority figures. "There is a fine line (in the relationship) of a teacher and a student. A teacher can be a confidant and an advisor, but not a peer," she said.

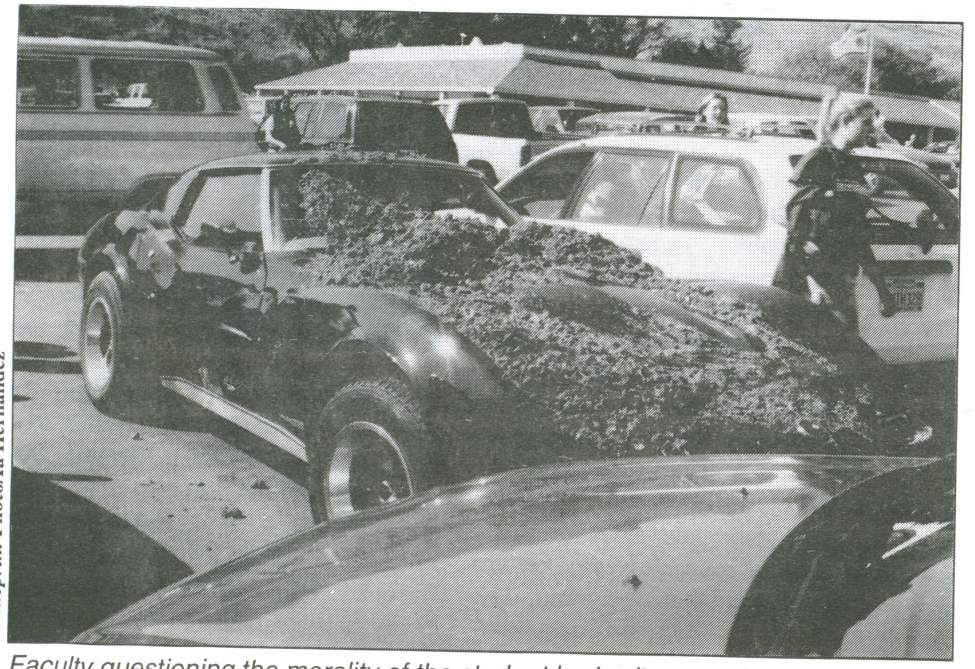
"If you want to be respected as a student and a person, you have to show respect."
-Keith Schmidt

Scovel also feels that there has been a blurring of boundaries between students and teachers. "Sometimes teachers open themselves up to problems because they tell their students to call them by their first names and they try to be pals. There has to be some kind of distance because we are authority figures."

Other teachers agree that order in the classroom depends upon teachers setting boundaries for their students. "It's a matter of being able to sit down with your students and say 'This is the line, and this is where it gets crossed," said Gov/Econ teacher Mary Carmichael.

Though the informality can sometimes lead to problems, Schmidt feels it is a step in the right direction. "In my own experiences going to school in the fifties, we weren't always respectful, but on a comparison scale, I think it was just that times used to be much more formal," said Schmidt.

These more formal times included student punishment techniques that would now be considered illegal and, according to Scovel, should have ended long before they actually did. "We weren't allowed to think or do anything when I was in school. Even 13 years ago



Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

Faculty questioning the morality of the student body cite acts of vandalism during Homecoming week such as the placing of horse manure on this student's car.

FEATURE FOCUS

Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

The crumbling "ACALANES" sign symbolically remind students of the deteriorating school climate.

I saw a school where they were still paddling students ," she said.

Schmidt also feels the increase in student rights is beneficial, however he believes the rights should come with responsibility. "Students deserve more freedom than we had," he said, "however, if you want to be respected as a student and a person, you have to show respect."

Acalanes Student Body President Meredith Galer believes that often times students abuse that respect. "Teachers are beginning to treat us more like adults than they ever have in the past. I think some kids are abusing this right and taking it to far," she said.

Haukland, however, feels that the increase in the permisiveness, even tolerance, in society for what kids are doing has been damaging. "I think there has been a de-emphasis on manners (in society). I don't think parents really talk about them anymore with their kids. It just gets to the point where everybody assumes that kids know about manners," said Haukland.

According to Haukland, in some cases television and teachers are lending the moral guidance once given by parents. "A big influence is the influence of *MTV*. It went through a stage in the last five years where it showed disrespect, violence, and degradation of women. If you watch that when you are younger, you don't have the maturity to decide what's real and what's not."

"I know kids are changing and starting not to respect older people as much, but I'm not sure of the reason why. I think (television) doesn't help," Galer said.

St. Mary's Professor of Psychology Dr. Mary McCall also believes that the media can shape teenagers' opinions of authority figures. "Movies (starring) adolescents commonly show adults as stupid, (such as in) the movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Kids are susceptible to the things they perceive from (the media)," she said.

Schmidt feels that the changes in the community are affecting kids, as well as adding a burden to teachers and administrators. "There used to be three pillars of the community that helped 'civilize' children: parents, teachers, and church. (Religous intsitutions) no longer have the impact on lives they once had, parents are working more, so the only real constant is school." said Schmidt.

McCall, however, feels that lengthened work hours are not the only problems facing the parent/teen relationship. She believes that neither side is putting the effort into the relationship that they once did, causing some teenagers to feel they lack support. "There is a lot of research that suggests that the less contact kids have with parents, the greater their lack of respect for adults," said McCall.

Carmichael feels that one of the main problems today are the communication gaps between parents, students and teachers. "Some parents take things way out of context. Instead of working with the student or the teacher, there's blame. And rather than talking to a teacher, some students go running to a counselor or go running home. Pretty soon you get parents calling about something we were totally unaware of," she said.

Carmichael has seen this support deteriorating in other areas, namely in the administration. "I don't think the kids are changing that much. It's just that when teachers get backed into a corner and need to take action, the support you could once count on, whether it be parents or other staff members, is not neccesarily as strong as it used to be," she said.

"It's a matter of being able to sit down with your students and say, 'This is the line, and this is where the line gets crossed."

-Mary Carmichael

McCall agrees with Carmichael that teachers today are more on their own then they ever have been. "I don't know how teachers do it. In California, they are way underfunded and they don't have the support of their principals that they used to have. It has got to be difficult."

Despite a few of the drawbacks, students, teachers, and the administration are all glad to see society exiting the dark ages of minimal teen rights. "I think that it is a good trend," says Lin. " In the end, it is better to have freedom emphasized than not at all, even if a few people do take it a bit overboard."

This is the second in a three-part series on Acalanes' school climate

YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Government Closer to Home

Chris Kinney
Staff Writer

Acalanes juniors and seniors are taking the law into their hands through Youth and Government, a YMCA sponsored group.

The original Youth and Government group was started 50 years ago, but this is Acalanes' first year. In years past, only Monte Vista, Las Lomas, Cal High, San Ramon, and Campolindo have had delegations.

Junior Missy Bryden, the student who brought Youth and Government to Acalanes, worked over the summer with Kevin Brice, the YMCA coordinator for Youth and Government, to get a delegation at Acalanes.

The first delegation in this area was started at Monte Vista about 10 years ago. Brice said that it is the YMCA's goal to have delegations at every school in the area.

This year, there are only ten people in the new Acalanes Delegation. Monte Vista's Delegation has about 200 members.

"If you really think about it...200 students wouldn't join this program if it wasn't fun," said Vice President of the Acalanes Delegation, Tracy On.

Youth and Government is a model Legislature in which students write bills to change or amend things that they dislike about the government and its laws. They then debate the bills at conferences with other Youth and Government delegations.

If, at the conference, the bill is passed, it goes to the bottom of the California Legislature. There have been students in the past that have had bills be passed into laws. The law which requires everyone in the car to wear a seat belt was produced from a Youth and Government conference.

For every delegation, there are jobs that the members fulfill. Some of these jobs are the President, who is the overseer of the meeting, the Vice President, who helps the president and takes his or her place in their absence, the Secretary, who transcribes the minutes of the meetings, the Treasurer, who is responsible for the finances, the Sergeant at Arms, who maintains order, and the Chaplain, who is a "spirit booster".

With one year of experience, Bryden was the only person who qualified to be president so, although only seniors are generally presidents, Bryden was allowed to be president of the Acalanes delegation.

The delegation, however, must combine jobs because it is so small. In the Acalanes delegation, Bryden is the president, Tracy On is the Vice President, Stephanie Jung is the Sergeant at Arms, and Monica Donovan is the Chaplain. Since the delegation is small, the Secretary and Treasurer jobs are divided up between the four officers above.

The individual delegations plan lots of social activities to be a part of their academic activities. This year the Acalanes Delegation is planing a ski trip, and they get to become good friends with other people who are in Youth and Government at different schools.

There are three conferences a year, and along with the debating over bills, the conferences host dances and other social activities. The first two conferences are at Camp Robert, where the members are taught about their positions and jobs. Then there is a five-day Sacramento Conference, where the officers take their positions in the Capitol. The conferences weren't just academic; there were parties and dances to go along with a hard days debating, said On.

Currently, the Acalanes delegation is "preparing for the Sacramento Conference, because we need to have a bill written," said Monica Donovan, the Chaplain of the Acalanes Delegation. Some of their possible choices are aspects of Child Abuse, Pornography on the Internet, Illegal immigrants, Affirmative Action, and the new Driving bill. Once a topic is chosen (right now the delegation members are still deciding), the members will follow a guideline provided by the program and write the bill. Then, in February, they will go to the Sacramento conference with the bill and debate it. There have been rumors that the president will be attending this year's Sacramento conference, because it is the 50 year anniversary, said On.

"People who have gone through the program agree that this is the best extra-curricular activity they have done in high school," said On. Bryden agrees. "It is the most incredible thing anybody could ever do," she said.

NEW TEACHERS (cont'd)

cont'd from page 11

Claude Monet paintings, cartoon drawings, and art created by his past students. The room reflects Thompson's desire to make his class as though provoking and stimulating as possible. "I try to make my classes a lot of fun," said Thompson.

Thompson enjoys not only classical art, but animated art as well. In his mass comic book collection he prefers the 60's version of Spider Man at his finest. "With Spider Man is great power which comes with great responsibility," said Thompson.

As a student at all boys Reardon High School in San Francisco, Thompson was highly bored and highly unmotivated. Looking around Acalanes, he sees a lot of teenagers having a lot more fun than he ever did. After receiving his BA at Saint Mary's he went on to pursue many odd jobs including working as a legal secretary, a job at Parenting magazine, and a managerial position of a painting company. "I just got really sick of doing the same thing year in and year out in an office under florescent lights," said Thompson.

Motivated by intriguing classes and teachers along with his enjoyment of Teenagers, he went to San Francisco State in pursuit of his teaching credential. Prior to Acalanes, Thompson taught junior high and ninth grade students in San Francisco and Antioch.

Thompson is motivated to help his students find their voice in their writing. "I want my students to be able to articulate exactly what it is that they're feeling or reacting to any given piece of writing that might not be something that kind of hits you over the head."

"Mr. Thompson demands a lot, but his class is fun," said junior Amy Schroll.

Besides an impressive knowledge of Rock and Roll at it's finest Thompson loves poetry. With his students at Antioch he created a poetry book, he hopes to continue the tradition here at AHS. November will mean the debut of Thompson's poetry club so put on your thinking caps and let your emotions unwind.

INSIDE . . . . . .

Chuck Takes a Look at Dons' Football pg. 17

BRET'S CORNER

Homecoming: Beyond All Expectations

By Bret Taylor
Co-Editor-in-Chief

This year's Homecoming was more successful than most people think. I mean, who wants the happiness and spirit encouraged by rallies, carnivals, float-building, skits, dances, football games, and decorations? Those old traditions aren't enough to satisfy the animal needs of us modern teenagers; we need to have fun at other people's expense, and ruining this year's Homecoming was just the remedy.

I was impressed from day one, when, after having woken up for school at 5 a.m. with the rest of the Leadership class to decorate the school, I found students tearing off our posters and popping our balloons. Who wants students smiling during Homecoming anyway?

The chalk and spray paint and horse manure on Friday were so much more entertaining; next year maybe we could write insulting comments about every possible social group we could think of, too. Now that would be fun!

I had even more fun at the rallies. I almost started to enjoy myself at those wonderful productions that the Rally Board put on until the rude comments started flying from the back row of the bleachers. "Shut up you stupid faggots! Duh, huh, huh," they yell. I am sure glad we didn't let those freshmen actually think our school was friendly; that would have been a *really* bad Homecoming.

Now, I was not completely convinced that we had completely adopted this theme of destroying the previously enjoyable Homecoming traditions until Thursday night. However, that night we truly showed the world what fun it was to ruin our school.

I think the best touch was the "flaming potatoes" thrown at the freshmen float; now that was creative. Even as paintballs were flying through the air and M80s were exploding above innocent teenagers' heads we accidentally remembered ASB President Meredith Galer's words: "Let's make this a fun and safe Homecoming!" And that didn't even phase us. Boy did we show her.

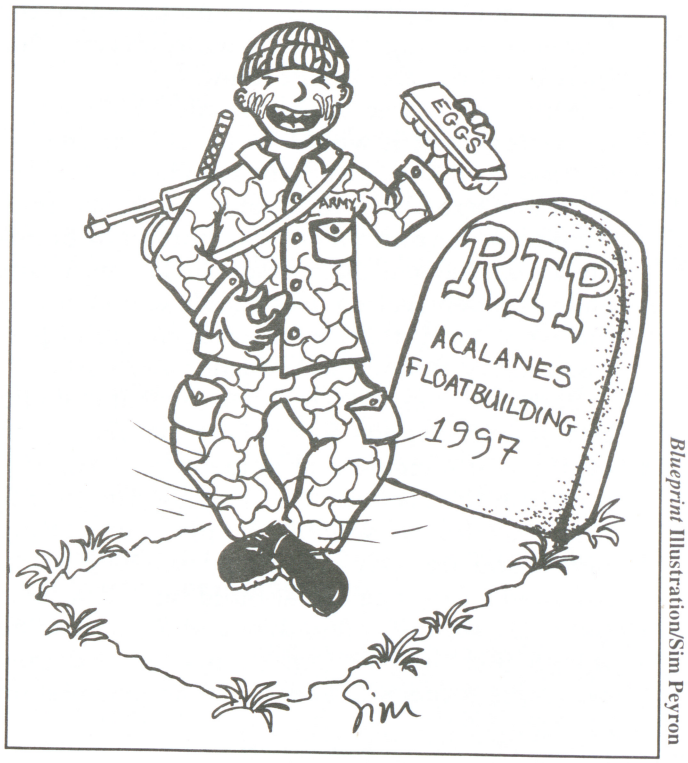
That night about midnight I was on the roof of Acalanes, enjoying the cool breeze and smell of burning potatoes as well as duct-taping back together the dilapidated "ACALANES" sign, for a group of juniors had apparently thought genitalia was more appropriate to represent our school and had spelled "PENIS" instead.

Now, as I look back on it, I regret making the letters spell Acalanes again; think of all the laughs we'd get from watching the Rally Board, who had spent hours on it the weekend before, see their work ruined for no other reason than immaturity! I mean, who cares about those spirit-loving over-achievers anyway--it's not like they planned all of Homecoming by themselves or anything.

Yet as I sat watching the floats go by, I couldn't help but have a bittersweet taste in my mouth; was it really worth the fun? But the small remnants of remorse still left in me were quickly flushed out by the smell of fresh cow dung on the Senior Deck. Ha! And they thought we had consciences!

I could only help but giggle when I heard Principal Schmidt's voice on the intercom Friday afternoon; that disappointed tone and his chilling monotony just reminded me of all the wonderful pain we had caused all those other students. Next year, when our float-building is on campus and supervised and regulated by even more parents and administrators, it will be even more fun trying to ruin it.

Maybe this winter we could burn down our own houses, too, this time using paint *grenades* and *real* sticks of dynamite... Now that would be funny.



Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

PRO/CON

Should Float-Building be on Campus?

By Kent Klinzman
Staff Writer

Float-building on campus is the only action that can be taken to more safely protect the kids and parents that are involved in this activity. This and last year showed that a small portion of Acalanes students was not mature enough to handle off-campus float-building. This minority found the Freshman float, and bombarded it with various potentially harmful items, including paintballs, M-80's, and eggs.

Even though these extreme actions were made by only a small portion of the student body, everyone will have to pay for them. Acalanes has lost a great deal of respect that it had from the community. After the community saw what some students are capable of, there is next to no chance that any parent will want to host a float at their house if this is something that could happen to them.

Most people view moving float-building on campus as a punishment. But due to this year's actions, it would be more of a protection issue than a punishment issue.

If float-building is held at someone's home, the parents would need to stand guard to protect the students from these aggressors nightly rampages. But by moving float-building on campus we could better insure the protection of the students working on the floats by moving the float-building onto safer ground.

Although all the classes would be clustered closer together, it would be harder for the assaulters to distinguish between classes. There would be less places to shoot at the floats from. If a person were afraid of being hurt while building a float beyond the normal chicken wire cuts and sleep deprivation, less people would attend the event. For if there were a real chance of personal injury, nobody would come anymore.

Because of this, it is absurd to say that it would be better off campus. Some claim that the rate of egging will increase due to the intense concentration of the classes. This may be true for the first year, but as soon as people start getting caught and are dissuaded from launching paintballs and lofting eggs, float-building will become safer. As for now, then the vandals need to be shown that their actions do matter, and they must take responsibilty for their actions that on one night.

By Dan Chamberlain
Staff Writer

Eggs and paintballs were just a few of the things lobbed at the house where freshman float-building took place. With all of these things flying at the house, there was some damage, to both the float and the house. So some think that float-building should be moved to an on campus site. But, moving float-building on campus will punish the majority of Acalanes students who had nothing to do with the attack on the freshmen, will be an ineffective deterrent to future attacks, and would ruin the whole purpose of the Homecoming floats.

By moving float-building on campus we will be attempting to punish those involved in this one isolated event by punishing everyone. By moving float-building on campus we will be making school policy a single isolated event. Policy should not be made based on one event, but on a trend of events. What's next, banning teenagers from driving just because one teenager causes a accident?

The excuse for moving float-building on to the campus is that the floats and people working on the floats will be better protected. The small minority that was involved with the assault will not be stopped by a line which indicates where school grounds start and stop. If the school can't stop raiders from coming on campus in the middle of the night to dump manure on the Senior Deck and deface the Acalanes lettering atop the school, what's to stop them when the floats are located on campus? The police, with a helicopter and cars could not stop the assault on the freshman, so what is going to protect the floats if they are not guarded by garages?

Even if the floats could be protected on campus, doing so would ruin the entire meaning of building the float. The float is supposed to be a secret-- not to be revealed until the day of the parade. By moving float-building on campus, all of the classes will know what the others are doing and the surprise will be ruined. It would be as if a family wrapped all of its Christmas gifts in front of each other, there would be no surprise, and the whole ceremony of gift giving would be ruined.

Sure, you won't have to drive all over the backroads of Lafaytte to get to the host house, but a school filled with eggs, paint balls and who knows what else is not worth saving a few measly dollars on gas.

CHAT WITH CHUCK

Friday Night Football: A Grand Fiesta

By Charlie Eaton
Staff Writer

When Granada slaughtered the Dons at Homecoming it took me back to the good old days when an Acalanes victory was as likely as off-campus float-building is for next year. After the smoke cleared, the helicopters landed, and the suburban, camouflaged commandos all laid down their semi-automatic paint ball guns, we crowded the Acalanes football stadium in record numbers to take part in the age- old tradition of high school football. Yet while our attendance stands higher than ever, our attention still rests far away from football.

Sure, a few of us might turn our heads as Mark Verlatti breaks free and runs for a touch-down. But that action is normally followed by a yawn as we return to our profound conversation about how much we saw a freshman drink the night before.

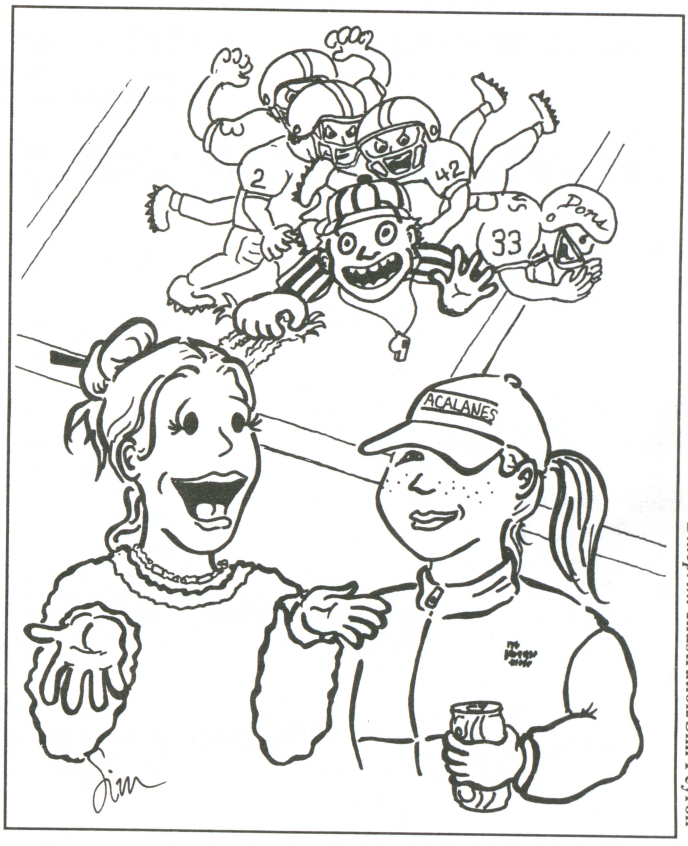
I've attended all but one of this year's games and probably only 5 minutes of football has passed before my eyes. I tried to get out of the routine once. I told a friend I wasn't going because I never watched. She then asked me what I planned to do instead.

"So I'll see ya there," I responded after pondering the question.

After we're sucked in through the stadium gates, some of us are subtle about our lack of interest. We'll glance at the game periodically. We might even take note of the score (this happens a little bit more this year because we actually win). However, most of Acalanes' "devout" football fans wouldn't notice if the players either turned into Spice Girls and brawled with the cheerleaders or turned into midgets and throttled the ref. On the other hand, rest assured that if someone yells "fight" while looking over the edge of the bleachers, the entire student body will be looking over the edge with them faster than the Dons could lose to De La Salle.

Others go so far as to sit facing away from the game. Everyone knows one of these people, whether it's some shrill voiced girl that looks like she got hit in the nose with a frying pan or some freshman in an oversized Gap sweatshirt who swears he's close friends with every upper classmen enrolled at Acalanes.

Of course we don't spend our entire evening talking; some of us enjoy watching the bizarre abundance of junior high students playing tag at the base of the bleachers. Others who can't muster the strength to sit up straight just hang their heads between their knees and stare at those kids who hang from the skeletal supports of the bleachers and bear a strange resemblance to the primates you see on the Discovery Channel.



Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

And if sitting isn't one's fancy, then take a stroll down to the snack shack. Everybody does it. We never buy anything, but that's not important. Down by the snack shack one can really socialize and take in the ethnicity of Acalanes which varies almost as much as the shack's beverage selection (Coke, and for the weight conscious ladies at Acalanes, Diet Coke).

Plus, it's down by the snack shack where we get to hear the drunken, idle threats. It happens about once a game. We've all heard it before: something along the lines of, "Why you lookin' at me like that, you don't think I'll kick your butt...say that again, I swear I'll...that's it, next time I see you you're frickin' dead" (substitute appropriate swear words and add profuse slurring).

All the parents are probably saying to themselves right now, in between shots of Cuervo, "They let drunk kids into the football games?" Or better yet, "High school kids drink? I sure am glad Billy would never do that." Yes, I too was shocked when I first found out as a freshman.

But don't worry, those security guards that you thought were just for parking are hard at work protecting your children from the inebriated, gyrating masses.

"Excuse me, can I smell your breath," asks a security guard with his polished tin foil service badge emblazoning authority.

"No."

"Okay, thanks sir, have a nice evening."

I think the most effective anti-alcohol policy at football games is the "no return privileges" policy. Sure, no one can exit the stadium to make a phone call, retrieve money for food, or use a bathroom that doesn't smell like someone passed on (or possibly out) in it. But I haven't seen a single drunk person since that rule went into effect (for the slower readers, that was sarcasm).

But don't blame the administrators or teachers for this mess. Football games were destined to become a social event of sorts. People, mischief, and substances could do nothing less than gravitate towards such a meeting place.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT
ENTERTAINMENT

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Hot Shots: A Photo Special pg. 20

MOVIE FORUM

Seven Years in Tibet Scales to Great Heights

By Bret Taylor
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Seven Years in Tibet (TriStar, 1997)
Rated: PG-13

Seven Years in Tibet is the unusual tale of ex-Nazi Heinrich Harrer (Brad Pitt), an egotistical and heartless Austrian mountain climber, and his journeys after his escape from an Indian POW camp during World War II. He is forced to flee to Tibet to avoid the British soldiers in India, and, by pure luck, manages to find solace in the holy city of Lhasa, a city normally closed to non-Tibetans. There he befriends the leader of the Tibetan Buddhists, the young Dalai Lama (Jamyang Wang Chuck), their relationship provoking both a psychological evolution in Harrer and new world view in the Dalai Lama.

The strongest part of the film is acting. Combining both the stubborn egotism of his original character and the enlightenment of the character he is becoming, Brad Pitt's evolution from Nazism to Buddhism is both believable and moving. He manages to express his struggle without becoming melodramatic or even shedding a tear, yet his struggle is still vividly apparent.

Likewise, 13-year-old Chuck infuses his Buddhist views in Brad Pitt's character and the viewer without preaching. In fact, over 75% percent of his lines are questions directed at Pitt, yet his tone and demeanor are so thought-provoking and his character's nature so down-to-earth, the viewer instantly responds to even the most subtle of points he makes. While it is initially awkward to view a 13-year-old as the spiritual leader of Tibet, Chuck pulls the task off easily.

The film also successfully combines its elements of drama, love, action, and subtle comedy, eliminating the monotony one could expect from such a dramatic story. Along with the enthralling conversations between the Dalai Lama and Harrer, the film incorporates mountain climbing, prison escapes, a love story, and the hilarious procedure of building a movie theater in the middle of the holy city of Lhana, not spending too much time on any one theme.

Courtesy Photo

Brad Pitt plays mountain climber Henry Harrer in Seven Years in Tibet,the tale of a Nazi's relationship with the Dalai Lama in Lhana, Tibet.

Similarly, the characters are all unique and realistic, giving the film depth lacking in many other dramas out of Hollywood.

Gattaca (Columbia Pictures, 1997)
Rated: PG-13

Gattaca is the tale of one man's battle against the rigidly-planned society of the future--a society that determines one's future from the day of birth based on one's DNA. The themes are interesting and the film approaches the popular "DNA" Hollywood trend with refreshing new perspective, but the relative simplicity and shallowness of the characters detracts from the points the film tries to make.

The acting exemplifies this simplicity clearly; in director Andrew Niccol's attempt to form his rigidly planned society, he makes everyone act like robots—and two minutes rather that two hours of watching robots would have gotten the point across. The main character, for instance, is Vincent (Ethan Hawke), a man who "borrows" the DNA of his companion (Xander Berkeley) to work his way up the elitist space program of the future so that he can fulfill his dreams of being an astronaut. Berkeley is commendable in his portrayal of his character's struggle to give up his own existence, but Hawke acts like "switching" DNA is a hobby for him, barely squeezing out an emotion through the entire film. The conversations between all of the characters in the film consist of short, choppy, and predictable grunts, and Niccol's stylistic monotony gets extremely tiresome by the end of the film.

However, the plot is still creative and intriguing. The film questions the predictability of what it labels "the human spirit," and in this film's case, "spirit" prevails over DNA. The film is one of the first to actually confront the ethics involved with genetics as well as the action and adventure genetics offer to movie sales.

Overall, *Gattaca*'s themes outweigh its simplicity, and audiences will leave thinking despite the monotone conversations and repetitive symbolism; it is worth seeing just for the questions it raises.

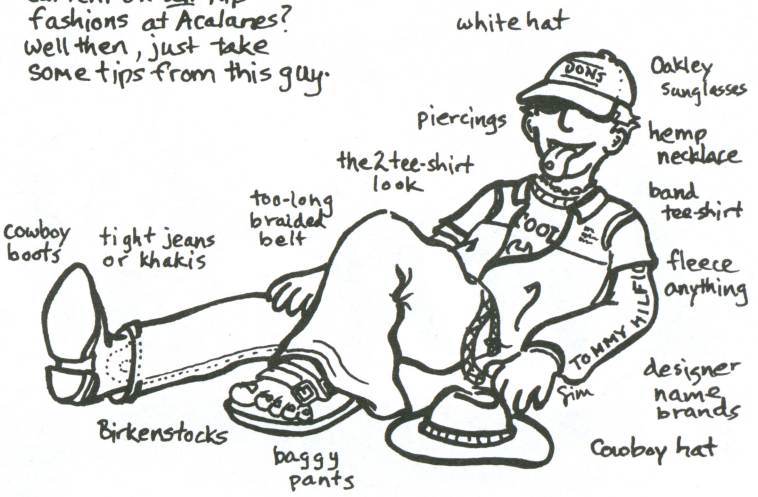
THE FUNNIES

Sim's Cartoon Collection

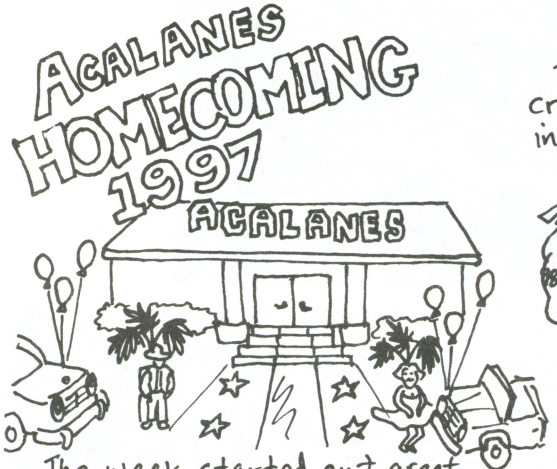
"There will be a five-day waiting period before you can take these eggs home."

HOMECOMING WEEK 1998

Do you want to fit in? Do you want to stay current on all hip fashions at Acalanes? Well then, just take some tips from this guy.

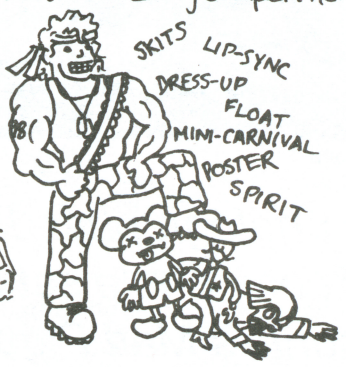


Don't know who to blame for your bad test grade? The stock market plunge? The assault on Freshmen floatbuilding? The bad music at the Dance? The pathetic cafeteria food? When in doubt, blame ¡El Niño!



The week started out great. After countless hours of work, leadership students finished decorating.

Day after day, the Seniors crushed the rest of the classes in almost every competition



On Thursday night, Homecoming festivities and spirit were disrupted when groups of wily, hormone-driven hooligans set out in camouflage to attack the poor Freshmen.

After that night's disheartening display of destructiveness, the students, faculty and administration all wonder what the next step is. This year's Homecoming has been described as the best in years but will it be the last? Sim

The situations portrayed in these cartoons are not completely factually based.

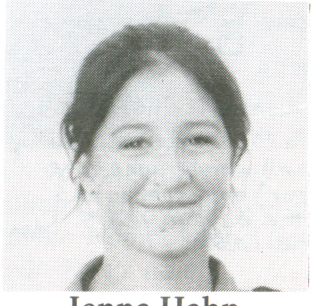
PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIAL

Photographers! Hey Hotshot! Blueprint wants to print your killer pictures. We are looking for high-impact photos of sports, campus life, interesting or newsworthy activities and artistic shots.

Please submit prints and/or negative to Mr. Freeman or the Blueprint editors-in-chief in room 209 or Ms. Wood in the photography room. If your photo is selected, Blueprint will publish it and write whatever news or description your photo requires. Blueprint will print your name and/or mugshot with the photo if requested. Requests for anonymity will also be respected.

Hot Shots

Student Photographer Jenna Hahn, Photography 2



Jenna Hahn

Hot Shot photographer Jenna Hahn took this picture of senior hole set Rich Andron fending off Miramonte's Matt Pigeon in the championship game of the Acalanes Invitational Tournament at De La Salle. AHS took 2nd place.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT
SPORTS

INSIDE . . . . . .

Seniors Take Powderpuff pg. 22

FOOTBALL

First League Win in Five Years

Dons Rain on Campo's Homecoming Parade

By Ben Conley
Sports Editor

The Acalanes Dons football team won its first league game in 5 years as they beat Campolindo 21-19. The Dons improved their record to 5-2 overall and 1-1 in league. For the first three quarters, the Dons seemed to have a firm grip on the reins. However, the Cougars weren't finished.

The Cougars scored a touchdown with less than three minutes left making the score 21-13. After the touchdown, Campo kicked off to Acalanes but no one was back to receive it. The Cougars recovered on the Dons four yard line and punched it through the goal line for a 21-19 score. The attempt for the two point conversion failed, as the pitch from the quarterback was behind his tailback and Acalanes recovered, allowing the celebration to begin. "I thought they were going to onside kick, we got too preoccupied with the front nine guys and we didn't notice there was no backup," said head coach Pat Smith.

It all boiled down to the Cougars failure to score points after their touchdowns. After the Cougars made the score 21-13 in the fourth quarter, their first choice would have been to kick for the extra point, therefore most likely making the it a seven point game with plenty of time left for another possesion. Unfortunately for Campo, their holder was injured earlier in the game, forcing the Cougars to go for two. This option backfired as the Dons defense stuffed the Cougar quarterback on a rollout. When the Cougars scored again, making the score 21-19, they had no choice to go for two and were unsuccessful. "After they scored I was pretty confident that our D-line would stop them," said senior running back Mark Verlatti

Verlatti had another outstanding game but paid an expensive price. Verlatti carried the ball 38 times for 157 yards and two touchdowns, but suffered an injured hand in the fourth quarter. The injury was later diagnosed as a broken left ring finger. "I new it was broken but I'm not sure what happened, I think I just hit it on somone's helmet, but I wasn't about to come out of the game," said Verlatti.

Senior wide receiver Eric Andersen helped out his offense with four catches for 71 yards. However, his biggest catch proved to be the game winner. With less than ten seconds on the clock before the half, and the game still close at 13-7, Andersen caught an out pass from junior quarterback Dave Iverson on the sideline of the endzone for a five yard touchdown catch. After a Verlatti run on the two point conversion, the Dons had a comfortable 21-7 lead at the intermission.

Another bright point for the Dons was coming back with a win after being devastated 42-0 by Granada at the Homecoming game. The normally potent Acalanes offense was held to just 108 yards as Granada utilized a nine man front to stop the Dons running game which caused the Dons to take to the air unsucessfully.

SIDELINES

No More Squirrels

Na-na-na-na, Na-na-na-na, hey, hey, hey goodbye. Na-na-na-na..... It's gone it's finally gone. Everyone in the Acalanes family can finally say goodbye to the endless streak of seasons without a league win.

The Acalanes football team beat their league rival Campolindo and ended the streak that began in 1992. "It was big, they were our rivals since Stanley, we were really excited after the game," said senior receiver Eric Andersen.

Despite the game looking like an El Nino aftermath, the Dons head coach was relieved after ending the drought. "I knew the day was coming. I just didn't know it was going to take this long since I first showed up here," said head coach Pat Smith. The football gods were definitely shining on the Dons as the game could have gone either way at the finish.

The heart and soul of this team has come from the numerous seniors leading the team in offensive and defensive categories. "It's just the commitment on behalf of all the seniors, I think they really wanted it," said Smith.

So after a five year drought, Acalanes has quenched its thirst. But this isn't the end of the ride. "It means everything, however making NCS is still our first goal, but this was our first step," said running back Mark Verlatti "This win finally takes the squirrel off our back." Now with a league win under our belt and the monkey off our back, Acalanes can congratulate our team for a job well done.

-By Ben Conley

POWDERPUFF

Seniors Triumph in Homecoming Games

By Jake Zarah
Staff Writer

The annual Powderpuff football games, which are a battle between females of each class, were held on Monday, Oct. 13 to kick off Homecoming week. The outcome of this grudge match was easily decided, for the seniors once again manhandled their opponents.

The Powderpuff finale matched the juniors head to head against the seniors, with the seniors prevailing 6 - 0. The seniors received the ball to start the game and began driving into Junior territory. After a few stalls in the drive, senior running back Emily Schoenrock took the ball in for the score, making it 6 - 0, seniors.

The juniors received the ball, and were able to drive to the seniors' ten yard line, but the mighty senior defense once again prevailed. The rest of the game was a defensive battle, with great stops by both teams.

Junior coach Jordan Engledinger was happy with his team, but felt that a few "missed calls" by the refs may have cost them the game. But Jordan and the juniors are not too upset. "We'll get our revenge next year," he said.

The first game in this three game tournament pitted the seniors against the freshmen. The seniors recieved the ball first and pounded the ball into fledgling freshmen defense, utilizing the rushing skills of Schoenrock. The seniors were able to capitalize on their first drive when senior quarterback Blaire Douglas hit reciever Sara Eckholm in the end zone for a touchdown. Schoenrock ran in the ball for the two point conversion, giving the seniors an 8 - 0 lead. On offense, the Freshmen and made some key advances, but were unable to prevail against the experienced senior defense. The rest of the game was controlled by the seniors, and the final score was 8 - 0.

The junior-sophmore game started off with a bang. Sophomore Whitney Foran returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown, but the run was called back because of a holding penalty. The sophomores gained good yardage, but were unable to score. The juniors then got the ball, and began to drive into the heart of the sophomore defense. Junior running back Beth Barbera broke away for a 30 yard touchdown score, giving the juniors a 6 - 0 lead. The sophomores were able to prevent the juniors from scoring on the two point conversion.

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Senior Danielle Silvani faces off against junior Becky Straw before school on the Monday of Homecoming Week.

Upon receiving the kickoff, the sophomores made another long return. Shortly after, sophomore Hilary Anderson ran into the end zone, tying the game. The junior defense came up big, stopping the sophomore attempt at a two point conversion.

The sophomores tried an on side kick, but the juniors recovered with one minute left to play, and were unable to score. The game ended in a tie, but the juniors were given the win because of seniority .

The outcome was not pleasing to all, though. "The refs were unfair and shouldn't have taken away our first touchdown," said sophomore Mariela Bermudez.

With their win, the seniors were able to preserve the Homecoming tradition. "It was a lot more fun, now that we are seniors," said Schoenrock. "We are the oldest and the strongest, and also the most talented."

Despite the fact that the outcome wasn't a suprise, the competition and spirit grew stronger as the day wore on, beginning with running through the halls in the morning and ending with the seniors victory over the juniors.

Even though the freshmen, sophomores and juniors didn't win, they still had a great time. Junior Jill Haverty said "it's a lot of fun." She said she is looking forward to playing next year, when she will get the chance to be on the winning team.

GIRLS WATERPOLO

Girls Waterpolo Stays Afloat in TCAL

By Charlie Eaton
Staff Writer

The Acalanes girls water polo team sailed onward towards post-season play by handily defeating a weak Alhambra squad 12-6 last Tuesday.

The Dons dominated the game from start to finish with a strong collective offense. "Alhambra held their own at first, and then they just fell apart," said sophomore goal keeper Grace Woods. Whole sets senior Blaire Douglas and junior Michelle Migliore spearheaded the Acalanes offense.

Meanwhile, Alhambra found that getting the ball through a mine-field might be easier than firing it past Woods. "She's the best goalie in the league... her name Grace is indicative of the way she plays, she really is quite graceful," said McAlister.

However, not even Woods could maintain the momentum from the Dons' 9-7 victory over Los Lomas when they were destroyed by Miramonte the week before.

Miramonte showed why they are the defending North Coast Champions by taking a 3-0 lead before the Dons could even realize the ship was going down.

The Matadors combined crisp passing, explosive speed, and powerful shooting to maintain possession of the ball and score. The early ejection of veteran Douglas and the third quarter ejection of junior Heather Stretch made Miramonte's naval assault that much easier. "(The ejections) took the wind out of our sails," said McAlister.

At the same time, they shut down the Acalanes offense by containing sophomore sensation Sonia Lamel.

Los Lomas was swallowed by a watery grave the week before when they chose to double team the Dons hole set leaving Lamel wide open to destroy the Los Lomas defense, scoring six goals with a combination of outside shots and fast breaks.

Acalanes coaches and players are working overtime to prepare for the upcoming TCAL tournament and their Campolindo rematch. "(Beating Campo in TCAL) assures us a spot at North Coast and puts us more appropriately at second in the league," said McAlister. If the Dons defeat Campo it will complete an ascent from a fourth-seeded team to a North Coast contender.

Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Senior driver Katie McCasey (left) fights for a loose ball in a recent match against Alhambra. The Dons are currently preparing for their rematch against Campolindo.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Dons Boys Run Out of Luck

Dan Chamberlain
Staff Writer

Granada destroyed any possibility of the Dons staying in the top two league positions following their respective wins.

In the Granada meet the top five Dons finishers gained personal best times, but were edged out by Granada 26 to 30. Leading the pack for the Dons again was junior Chris Vetek, finishing third, in 17:21. Following the top runner for the Dons were Taylor Arnold, Andy Fitzgerell, Darryl Wong and Alex Baca.

With a young team composed of only three seniors, the boys have a bright future. With Vetek breaking records as a junior, he looks like the next Andrew Shogan. The Dons have aspirations for the CIF State Championship meet. According to the Contra Costa Times the boys were predicted to finish third in the TCAL South Division. "We will definitely do better than that," said coach Darrin Neutz.

Running against Granada, one of the top teams in division three, the Lady Dons were overpowered and fell to the Matadors by a score of 16 to 43. Charging ahead the other Dons runners was sophomore Nikola Prowznik, finishing sixth overall with a time of 21:04. The top girls runner was followed by Katie Powers, Petra Kohler, Erin Gillen and Sarah Hearey.

The Lady Dons are in contention for second place in the South Division, and coaches Neutz and Manny Myers are anticipating that the girls will return to the CIF State Championship Meet for the fourth consecutive year. "We're better than we were a year ago," said Neutz. With wins in their next two meets the girls could be on their way to state once again.

BOYS WATERPOLO

Dons Sink in Mats-Infested Waters

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

Acalanes once again wiped out on the tidal wave known as Miramonte water polo. Although the loss dropped the Dons record to 12-7, the Acalanes boys water polo team did anything but play poorly. Despite falling into an early hole, the Dons kept the score close in the first half, trailing only by one at half time. Eventually, however, Miramonte used its strong defense and tsunami-like counter attack to wash over the Dons.

Miramonte's Peter Conte scored in the first minute of the game. Minutes later, Acalanes answered back with a goal from senior driver Brandon Stern, making it the first of his three goals during the game. The Mats answered that with a goal from both Miramonteís Andrew Stoddard, who had five goals during the period of the game, and hole man G.P Panawek, who had three.

Rallying behind spirit man Alex Gaber's painted face and war cries, the Dons weren't finished as senior hole sets Matt Streumpf and Stern scored again for Acalanes, closing the gap to 10-7. Stoddard had two goals in the last quarter, and scored on a penalty shot with four minutes and twelve seconds left on the clock. With 3:07 left, Stoddard had one more goal. Pat Sheppard scored once more for Miramonte, ending the game with a painful score of 11-7.

Although the game might not have been won by Acalanes, the star player of the game would have to be senior goalie Ethan Berger who tallied 16 saves. "Berger is probably the best goalie in all of Northern California, and we had 27 shots on goal, and only 11 were made, so he was definitely the star of the game for Acalanes," said Miramonte's hole man G.P Panawek.

Miramonte had an outstanding game, being that it was a big game for them, too. Panawek said that they "did well and Andrew Stoddard had a great game. He was the key to our victory." But pressure was still high going into the game, because Acalanes and Miramonte were brawling it out for the championship. "It was the biggest game of the season," said Miramonte coach Bill Brown. Acalanes gave Miramonte's players something to think about by playing harder at this game than at previous games. Yet, as Brown agreed, Miramonte's "strength is our depth."

Miramonte has two phenomenal players, Andrew Stoddard and Chris Latrop, who gave Acalanes a shocker, by having firm control of the ball, and putting their talents to the peak. "We played pretty good. Our defense is really good, and our weak points were our counter attacks and our offense," said senior driver Matt Streumpf. He added that there was a "great chance" that the Dons would beat Miramonte if they played them again, but "if we mess up, they'll destroy us," he warned.

Senior driver Ben Conley scored a goal while hole sets Matt Struempf and Rich Andron chipped in with goals of their own. Sophomore driver Trevor Wagner contributed with a goal as well.

"We played our best complete game of the season," said head coach Brian Monty.

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VOLLEYBALL

Acalanes Slays Los Lomas Knights

By Chris Vetek
Staff Writer

Despite bad omens in the first and third games, the Acalanes women's volleyball team unleashed a ferocious comeback, culminating in a fifth-game victory, as the Dons edged Las Lomas 11-15, 15-7, 4-15, 16-14, 15-8, on Tuesday, October 21.

Senior captain Laura Cox plundered the Knights defense with twelve kills and five aces.

"Laura was amazing out there. She really saved our team with her digs and offense," said Acalanes coach Jim Changaris.

Junior Julie Hunt also ransacked the Knights defense, pounding down seven kills, and was one of the key factors in the Don's riveting fourth game comeback.

"Julie hit one that bopped a Knights middle hitter on the head. That was one of the hardest hits I've ever seen from her," said Changaris.

Las Lomas looked to be in control early in the first game, as the withering Dons appeared less than pumped about the match. Brief fireworks brought on by a Cox save put the Dons within three before the Knights sealed the game.

The second game was highlighted by twelve service errors on both sides, but Acalanes gained a handle on the Knights, as Hunt and junior hitter Yuko Takeoka combined for five kills, refueling a dead Dons offense.

"It was a team effort. Our passing wasn't where we wanted it, but Julie's hitting really helped out our offense," said Takeoka.

After the third game disaster in which the Dons' defense was nonexistent, Acalanes changed paths from disaster to victorious comeback.

Laura Cox led the offensive strike with three aces, while the Acalanes frontline combined for ten kills in the fourth game alone.

"We woke up in the fourth game. This is the fifth or sixth time our team has come back like that" this year, said Changaris.

The Knights' vicious serving early on, combined with the Dons' miscommunication in their 6-2 offense, disappeared, and Las Lomas lost its momentum in the fifth game.

"We let down, and we didn't communicate. Once we lost that momentum it was too late," said sophomore Christine Hanley, a Knights frontliner.

Las Lomas combined for twelve unforced passing or service errors, compared to four unforced errors on the Dons' side.

"It just kind of steamrolled, with our fundamentals getting worse, our passing and serving just getting bad. Everything went bad out there," said exasperated Las Lomas coach Lance Kuramoto.

Acalanes rolled over Mt. Diablo Thursday, October 24, winning 15-8, 15-5, 15-3. The win elevated the Dons to fourth place at 7-3 in league play.

TENNIS

Acalanes Dons Conquer Granada

By Kent Klinzman
Staff Writer

The Acalanes women's tennis team edged Granada 5-4 in a close match on Wednesday, October 23.

Sophomore Ashley O'Neill had her first loss of the season against a nationally ranked senior, losing 4-6, 6-3, 3-6. Seniors Beia Spiller and Robin Zeman won their matches and the Dons quickly amassed the 5 wins necasary to win the match.

The Acalanes women's tennis team also handled Mt. Diablo, winning 9-0. "There wasn't much to it; it was a lot of lobbing the ball over their heads," said Zeman. She and Spiller won their doubles match in two straight sets 6-0, 6-0.

The entire team performed well, with every Don beating their opponents in two sets.

Coach Judy Corliss is pleased with her team's progress this year, but they have a few hurdles to get over before they can be declared the best in the league. Their main rivals are Miramonte, Campolindo and Foothill. Miramonte is currently ranked first, having lost only to Foothill. The Dons are confident in facing Miramonte, following a surprise victory over Foothill.

"We have a good chance to go up and do better because everyone is improving a lot," said Beia Spiller.

Against Foothill, the deciding match came down to the final showdown of the night. With the Acalanes squad showing great support, the Acalanes doubles pair of Kim Bruce and Taylor Bentley battled it out with their Foothill opponents. Finally in the third set, the Dons beat Foothill, 6-4. This sealed the win over Foothill, because it was another 5-4 game. This match was a high point for Acalanes as the entire team was there to root on their teammates.

In a non-division game, Acalanes also defeated Las Lomas, the Northern champs, 6-3. In that game, Ashley O'Neill won her match, 6-0, 6-2 as did the doubles team of Beia Spiller and Robin Zeman.

The match against Los Lomas was a great confident booster as the southern division is a strong league this year. It also showed that even with a young team, Acalanes is still competitive, needing only time to grow stronger.

Due to Campolindo and Foothill victories over Miramonte, the post season is unpredictable. Miramonte was last year's North Coast champion, but this year is still up in the air.

SPORTS FOCUS

Girls Tackle Football Gender Barrier

New players accepted by teammates but mocked by foes

By Genevieve Day
Staff Writer

Glancing at the freshman football team lined up on the field and noticing their baggy jerseys and padded pants, none of the players look especially different. But when you take a closer look at numbers 51 and 16 you'll see that underneath the pads and helmet there is long blonde hair and painted fingernails.

Football season began in the early fall with 44 players on the freshmen team. This year however, two of those players are girls. Freshmen Courtney Anderson and Brittany Prowznik bravely accompany the boys in a "male" sport of aggresion and power. It came as a surprise for both athletes and students that the girls would play such a violent game.

Both girls get just as much playing time and are just as aggressive as the average boy. They did not have to worry about getting cut in tryouts because everyone that tries out for the frosh team makes it. Prowznik, number 51, plays both tackle and guard and Anderson, number 16, is both wide receiver and quarterback.

Courtney was astounded when she was able to play on the team. "I didn't expect them to let me, but I really wanted to. It was really scary. I just went up and said, 'Do you let girls play football?' So then I just warmed up with them and watched them and they gave me my pads the next day. Then a week or two later Brittany tried out," she said.

"Last year I played football, not on a team but whenever I had free time and when our class played. There were...other girls that played, but usually they didn't let us play because we were better than some of the guys. I really like playing so I just wanted to," Courtney said.

Brittany had wanted to play since 7th grade but didn't want to be the only girl on the team and when Courtney tried out she knew she would too. They became friends and sit together on the bus and hang out during warm ups.

Coach Nick Padula Jr., a former AHS player, said, "I think it's great that girls want to try out for football. I coach football players. I don't care if they are male or female. The best players play."

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-Nick Padula, Jr.

"Having girls on the team is a whole new concept for the boys. It was really strange for them in the beginning, but now they are used to it," said Padula. He enjoys having girls on the team. "Sports should be open to anybody who wants to try out," he said.

Is it hard for boys to tackle the girls? At first it was difficult. "It's hard to tackle them at full speed because you don't want to hurt them. It kind of sucks," said an anonymous teammate.

Two can play at that game. "Tackling is fun," Courtney laughs. "It's my favorite part. At first when we tried to tackle them they fell on purpose, but the coach yelled at them. They tried to make me look dumb, like I couldn't really do it. It made me mad, but now it's different." Tackling the boys is definitely not a chore for her.

It seems as if the girls would get crushed and injured if they are tackled, but they both agree it's not that bad. "It only hurts if you're hit in certain ways," Prowznik said. Anderson agrees. "I've gotton a couple of bruises but it doesn't hurt because of the padding. It hurts mostly on your arms and your chest."

Their fellow teammates do not tease them at all, but the opposing teams do. "Sometimes there is playful teasing, like when other teams yell, 'Get the girl,'" said Prowznik, but it doesn't bother her too much. The other teams laugh at the end of games when it is time to shake hands. Opposing teams are not the only ones put off by girls playing football. "Some of the girls think it's stupid. They think the only reason I'm doing it is for attention and that's totally wrong," Anderson said.

Sophomore Laura Stinson felt that way in the beginning. "At first I thought they were just trying to get attention, but now I think it's kind of cool. I also think there should be a girl's football team."

These trailblazers are actually not new. Last year two girls muscled their way into the arena of "guy's" sports. Justine Lam, now a freshman at Berkeley, and junior Tomoko Roudebush, were on the wrestling team. "I wanted to keep in shape for track and cross country so I tried out. I enjoyed the challenge and the guys helped me out a lot," said Roudebush. She hopefully will try out this year.

Most students think it is brave and unique of the four girls to speak up and play the sport they love. Sophomore Mariela Bermudez said "it's great because it shows that girls can compete (at) men's standards these days."

SOCCER

Dons Kick Over Campo, Miramonte

By Jake Zarah
Staff Writer

The Acalanes Men's Soccer team won three straight games to finish off their 1997 season with a record of 7-7-1.

The Dons topped league rival Campolindo 1-0 in their final game of the season. Although the score might not indicate it, the Dons dominated the game. They combined tough defense with stellar offensive play to come out on top. The game's only goal came when freshman Rusty Phillips streaked down the side and and shot the ball into the net.

This final game was a very special one for the Acalanes Dons. A team that was mediocre throughout the season looked as if it were undefeated. This huge win seemed to "salvage" the season for the Dons. "It was a wonderful highlight to a memorable season," said junior Dave Miskie.

In their second to last game, the Dons toppled second place Miramonte, 2-1. The game started off with a spectacular goal by junior center midfielder, Sean Parks. The defense was as "tough as nails", allowing only one Miramonte goal. The game was capped off with a goal by sophomore forward Bret Boudreaux.

After two hard fought losses against Dublin and undefeated league powerhouse Foothill, the Dons bounced back to beat Granada, 2-1 in their Homecoming game.

The Dons' 1997 season was full of many ups and downs. Although they finished off strong, they were plagued by injuries and illnesses all year, which caused them to sputter at times. Their strong play towards the end of the season moved them out of last place in the TCAL South Division and into fourth place.

The Dons were unable to make the league tournament this year, but the outlook on the future is still bright. "Next year we are going to be a full force with sixteen returning players," said junior Morgan Miles. With that many experienced players, look for the Dons to be atop the TCAL come this time next year.

Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Senior Toni Noceti (20) fights for control of the ball in a recent TCAL soccer match. The Dons finished off the season strong with victories over Miramonte and Campo.

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Athletes of the Issue

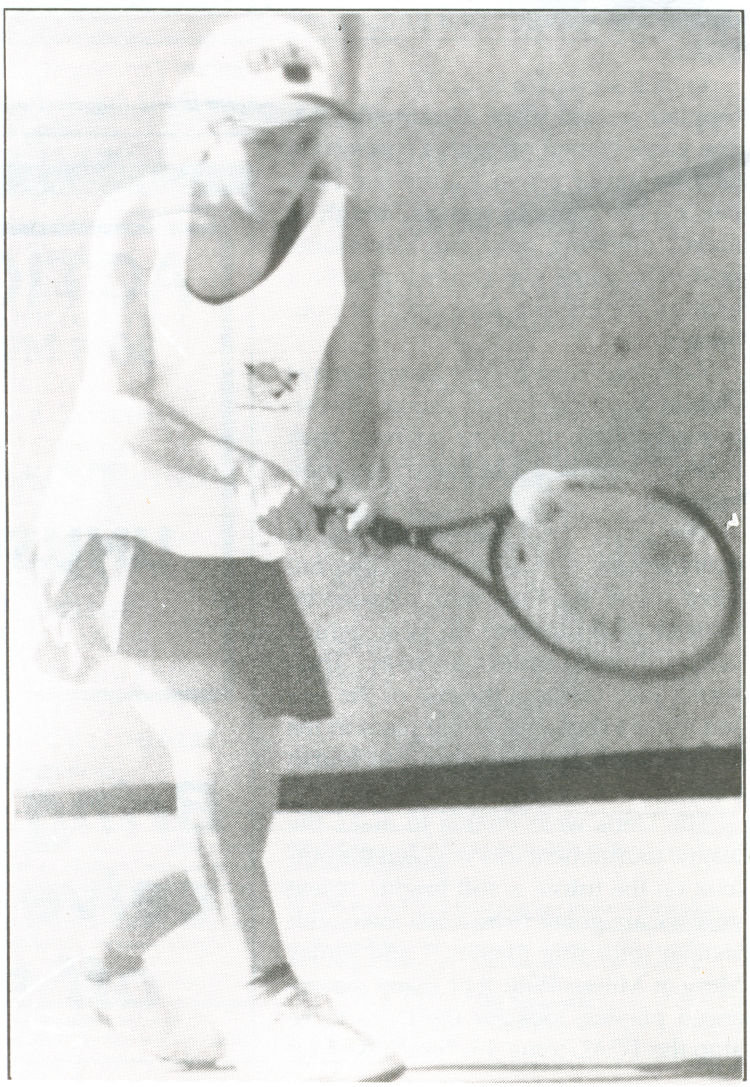
Blueprint Photo/Teressa Wicklum

Ethan Berger

Although a defense in the sport of waterpolo should try not to let the other team take a shot on their goal, the Acalanes men's waterpolo team will let an opposing team shoot on their goalie anytime. In fact they dare them to. More times than not, they will get stuffed by the Don's senior goalie, Ethan Berger. At 6'3", and the ability to get out of the water to his suit, Berger has the talent to make a good shot a bad one. For this Berger is Blueprint's Male Athlete of the Issue. *Berger recorded 14 saves against league powerhouse Miramonte which singlehandedly kept his team in the game and also had 22 saves throughout the recent Dick De Long invitational.*

Ashley O'Neill

Tennis may appear to be an individual sport, however, when sophomore Ashley O'Neill gives up her number one spot so other members of her team can play, it proves otherwise. For this she is Blueprint's Female Athlete of the Issue. *O'Neill's talent is so great that against weaker opponents, her services aren't needed. "We can always count on her winning," said tri-captain Kim Bruce. O'Neill has only lost one match this season and was ranked 152 in the nation last year. O'Neill is currently ranked 12 in Northern California as a sophomore.*



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